

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A stent suitable for maintaining the patency of a bodily lumen, generally comprising a tubular body and at least one cover connector on the tubular body. A stent assembly of the invention generally comprises a stent having cover connectors in contact with a cover to secure the cover to a surface of the stent. The invention also comprises methods of securing a cover to a stent. In a first embodiment, the cover connector on an expandable tubular body has a first section, a second section, and a third section between the first and second sections. The connector has an open configuration, and a closed configuration in which the first section has at least one bend and the second section has at least one bend, so that the first and second sections are bent together and are directed towards the third section therebetween. In a second embodiment, a cover connector is secured to an end of the expandable tubular body, and is configured to fold from an open configuration to a closed configuration in which the connector extends toward a midpoint of the tubular body between the first and second ends of the tubular body and contacts a cover located between the cover connector and a surface of the stent, to secure the cover thereto.

145428 v01.PA (347_01!.DOC)
03/08/00 6:04 PM